

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-3087**

**Piney Grove African American Survey District**

**Boring**

**Baltimore County, MD**

**1850ca-1950s**

The Piney Grove African American Survey District is located near the historic village of Boring in the Fourth District of Baltimore County. The African American residents in the area did not refer to their community as Boring but rather as Piney Grove. Today, the only remains of an African American community in Piney Grove are the United Methodist Church and the associated schoolhouse (BA-1177). The people that made up the African American community during the 19th century and early 20th century resided on Longnecker Road or Frye Road, north of Piney Grove Church. The Sidney Atlas of 1850 denotes the Piney Grove Church calling it the Colored Methodist Meeting House. The Piney Grove Schoolhouse also dates to circa 1850. In 1872, the Piney Grove Schoolhouse was one of the first schools recognized as a public school for African Americans by the Schools Commissioners of Baltimore County.

The Piney Grove United Methodist Church is one story high, two bays wide, and of wood-frame construction. The original church has a rectangular footprint and measures three bays deep and features a gable vestibule. Surrounding the Piney Grove U.M. Church is a cemetery most of which is sited to the south and southeast of the church. The cemetery contains approximately 125 marked graves. Of similar form as the neighboring church, the Piney Grove School, circa 1850, has a rectangular footprint and a gable addition on the southwest elevation. Two bays wide this single-pile schoolhouse rises one story in height and is capped with a side-gable roof.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3087

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Piney Grove African American Survey District

other

### 2. Location

street and number Piney Grove Road, Frye Road not for publication

city, town Boring vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple Ownership

street and number telephone Not Available

city, town state zip code

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: tax map 31

city, town Towson liber folio

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2 9
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	2 9 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			2

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3087

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The rural area of Piney Grove is located four miles north of Reisterstown in Baltimore County. The Piney Grove African American Survey District contains two historic properties; Piney Grove United Methodist Church and Piney Grove School (listed together as BA-1177). According to interviews conducted by Louis Diggs some of the African American residents historically resided along Frye Road. Today, no African Americans reside in Piney Grove. The historic dwellings along Frye Road have been replaced with houses from the late 1940's and the 1950's. The replacement dwellings suggest the African American residents moved out of the community during the mid-20th century.

Facing southwest, the Piney Grove United Methodist Church, built in 1850, is one story high, two bays wide, and of wood-frame construction. The original church has a rectangular footprint and measures three bays deep and features a gable vestibule. Standing on a random-rubble stone foundation, this building is capped with a front-gable roof sheathed with standing-seam metal. Features of the church include 6/6 wood-sash windows, two interior brick chimneys, and weatherboard siding with cornerboards. The recent addition located on the southwest elevation (façade) is two bays wide and two bays deep. This section rests on a poured concrete foundation, covered with a front-gable roof, and is clad with weatherboard siding. Each of the two double-leaf paneled wood doors is illuminated with a 4-light transom.

Surrounding the Piney Grove U.M. Church is a cemetery most of which is sited to the south and southeast of the church. The cemetery contains approximately 125 marked graves. Various types of markers include upright rounded markers and obelisks made out of marble, granite, and limestone. The earliest markers are sited close to the church on the northwest side. Many of the headstones are in fair or poor condition, several having been broken. The earliest headstone marks the grave of Diggs who died in 1860. Other internment include Hester A. Painter (1886), Samuel Lee Tobithn (1893) and Margaret Tobithn (1923). The cemetery predominantly dates from the late 1890s and early 1900s. The most recent marker has a date of 1995. On the southwest side of the church is a family lot enclosed by a low concrete enclosure. The cemetery is not organized according to strict adherence to symmetry with rows and columns of interments. Many of the markers are placed haphazardly around the church.

Of similar form as the neighboring church, the Piney Grove School, circa 1850, has a rectangular footprint and a gable addition on the southwest elevation. Two bays wide this single-pile schoolhouse rises one story in height and is capped with a side-gable roof. The main section of the building rests on random-rubble stone piers and the foundation to the side section has been replaced with poured concrete. Asphalt shingles cover the original weatherboard siding and the two single-leaf entries contain wood-paneled doors. Other features include a wood soffit, slightly overhanging eaves, and replacement 1/1 windows.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3087

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1850 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1850 ca

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Piney Grove African American Survey District is located near the historic village of Boring in the Fourth District of Baltimore County. The Fourth District is bounded to the north by the Fifth District, to the east by the Eighth District, to the south by the Second and Third Districts and to the west by Carroll County. The Western Maryland Railroad runs from Owing's Mill northwest to Finksburg.(1)

The African American residents in the area did not refer to their community as Boring but rather as Piney Grove. Today, the only remains of an African American community in Piney Grove are the United Methodist Church and the associated schoolhouse (BA-1177). The people that made up the African American community during the 19th century and early 20th century resided on Longnecker Road or Frye Road, north of Piney Grove Church.

Piney Grove Church had its beginnings on July 8, 1848 when Henry Bushey and his wife Ruth deeded one acre of land to three trustees of the previously established Piney Grove congregation. The three trustees given the deed were Stephen Brooks, Joshua Derricks, and John B. Diggs.(2) The church was to be named Africans Pine Grove Chapel. Within two years of gaining the property the Piney Grove Church was built. The Sidney Atlas of 1850 denotes the Piney Grove Church calling it the Colored Methodist Meeting House. (3) The Piney Grove Schoolhouse also dates to circa 1850. In 1872, the Piney Grove Schoolhouse was one of the first schools recognized as a public school for African Americans by the Schools Commissioners of Baltimore County. (4)

According to the 1850 census some of the African American residents of Piney Grove included Berry, Smith, Williams, Dett, Diggs, Jefferson, and Derricks. Many of the men worked as laborers, mostly on farms, while the women were employed as domestic servants to the white families.

Situated between Piney Grove Road and Old Hanover Road, the African American church is shown on the Hopkins Atlas of 1877. This map also denotes the colored school adjacent to the church. South of the church on Old Hanover Road is the residence of C. Derricks, a descendent of one of the church founders. To the north of the church G. Melkin resides.

According to the 1920 census one of the Piney Grove residents was Burton Diggs. Diggs, originally from Maryland, rented his property and was employed as a laborer. Another resident in the area in 1920 was Jacob G. Beckett. Originally from Virginia, Beckett also rented his property. With nine people in the Beckett family, several worked as servants to local white families. While the church continued to be a focal point for the community the school at Piney Grove was consolidated with Reisterstown's Black school in 1929. (5)

According to the church history of 1938, donations were made to the Piney Grove Church by Beard, Thompson, Berry, Diggs, Keet, Migal, Dam, and Mack. The families of Berry and Diggs have remained in the area since at least 1850 according to the

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Piney Grove African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

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census. In 1946, donations to the church were given by Williams, Harris, Diggs, Mack, Berry, Milligan, Battle, Adams, Keets, Jefferson, Garrett, Baltimore, Beard, Holley, and Sugars. Six years later, donations were given by Harris, Berry, Williams, Jefferson, Wright, Thompson, Beard, and Garrett. Although the African-American community, which established Piney Grove is no longer in the area the church building and cemetery remain in use.(6)

### ENDNOTES

1. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), 854
2. Louis S. Diggs, Holding On To Their Heritage (Baltimore County: Louis S. Diggs, 1997), 87.
3. J.C. Sidney, Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).
4. Louis S. Diggs, History of Piney Grove found at [www.louisdiggs.com/heritage/communitybldg.html](http://www.louisdiggs.com/heritage/communitybldg.html), March 11, 2002.
5. Diggs, Holding On To Their Heritage, 93.
6. Diggs, 93.

### OWNERSHIP AS OF MARCH 11, 2003

4929 Piney Grove Road  
map 31 parcel 26

Piney Grove United Methodist Church -- tax id # 2300004318  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
Liber not available

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-3087

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 7.4 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Hampstead, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Piney Grove African American Survey District is located near the historic village of Boring in the Fourth District of Baltimore County. The community is associated with tax map 31 since its development.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 2/24/03

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Baltimore County Census, 1990. Baltimore County Planning Office, 1990.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

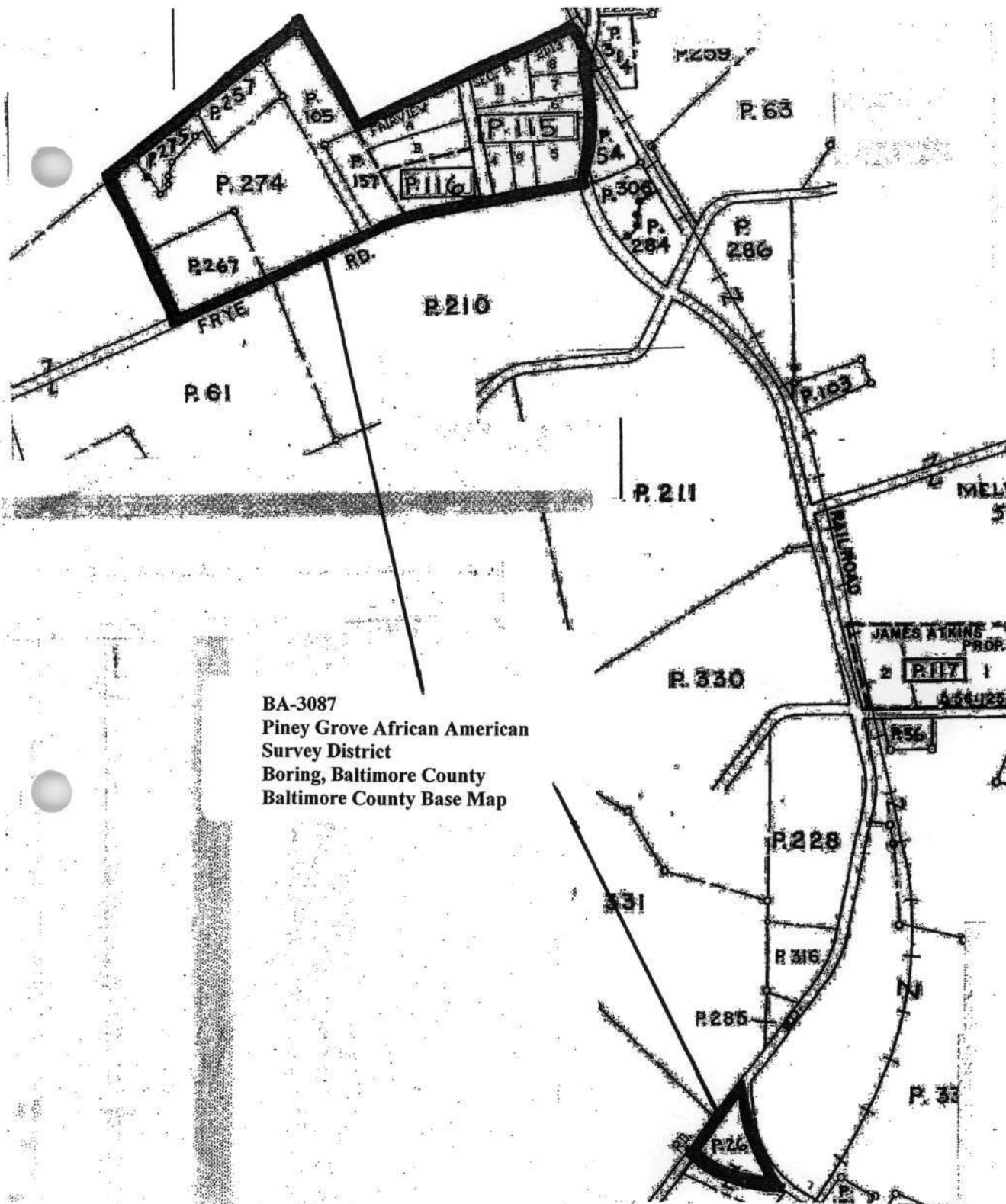
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

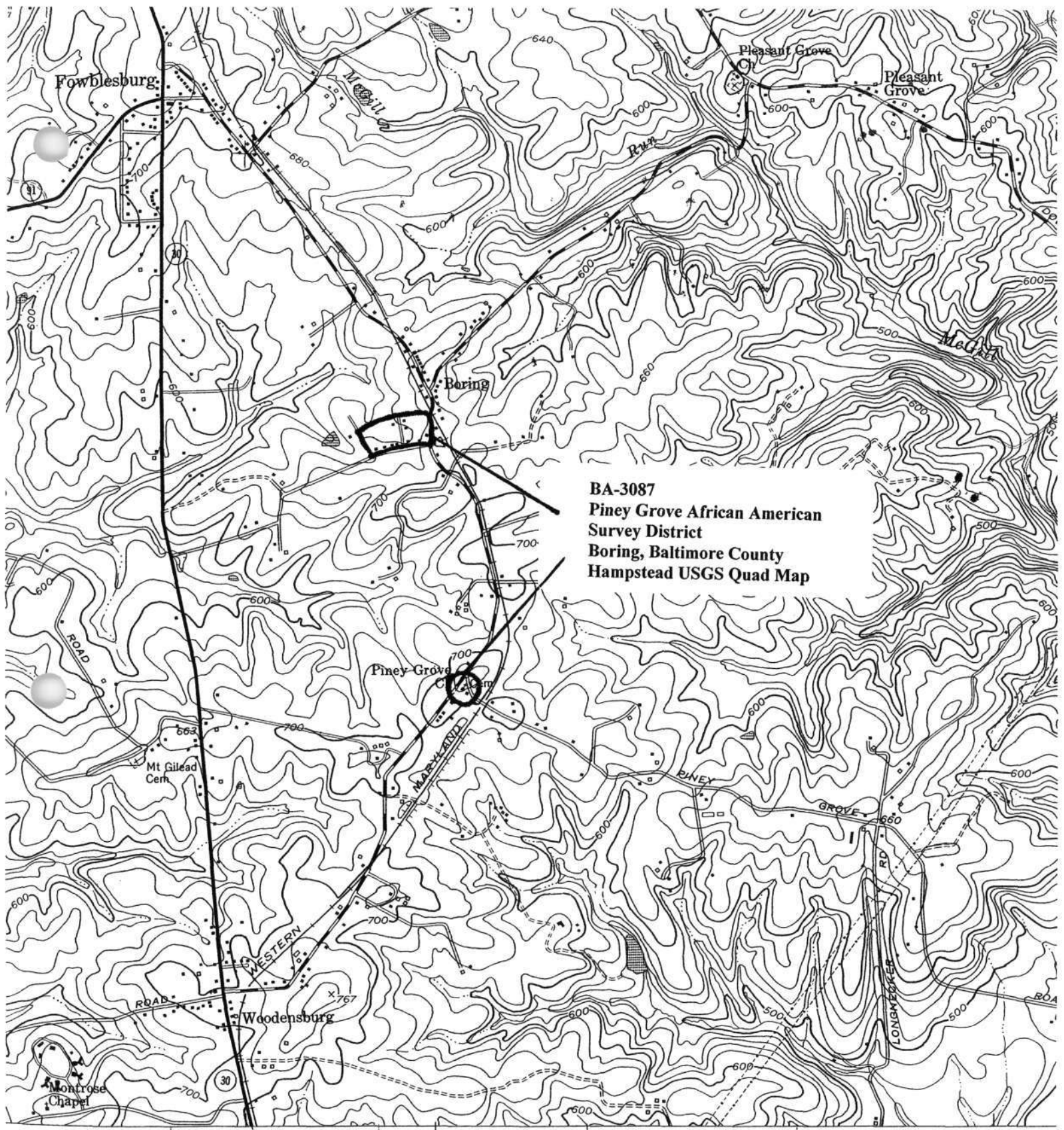
Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

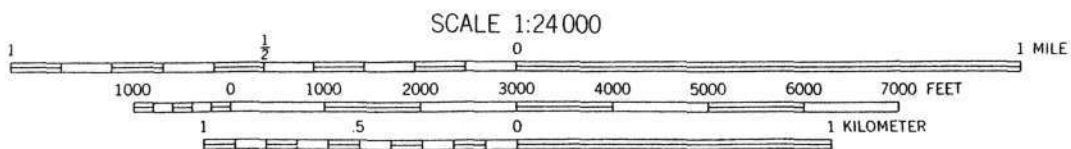
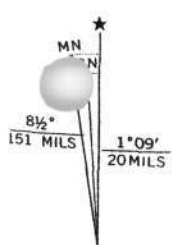








BA-3087  
Piney Grove African American  
Survey District  
Boring, Baltimore County  
Hampstead USGS Quad Map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS



BA-3087

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BORING

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

2/2003

MD SHPO

PINEY GROVE U.M. CHURCH, (BA-1147), view looking NORTH

1 of 6



BA-3087

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BORING

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

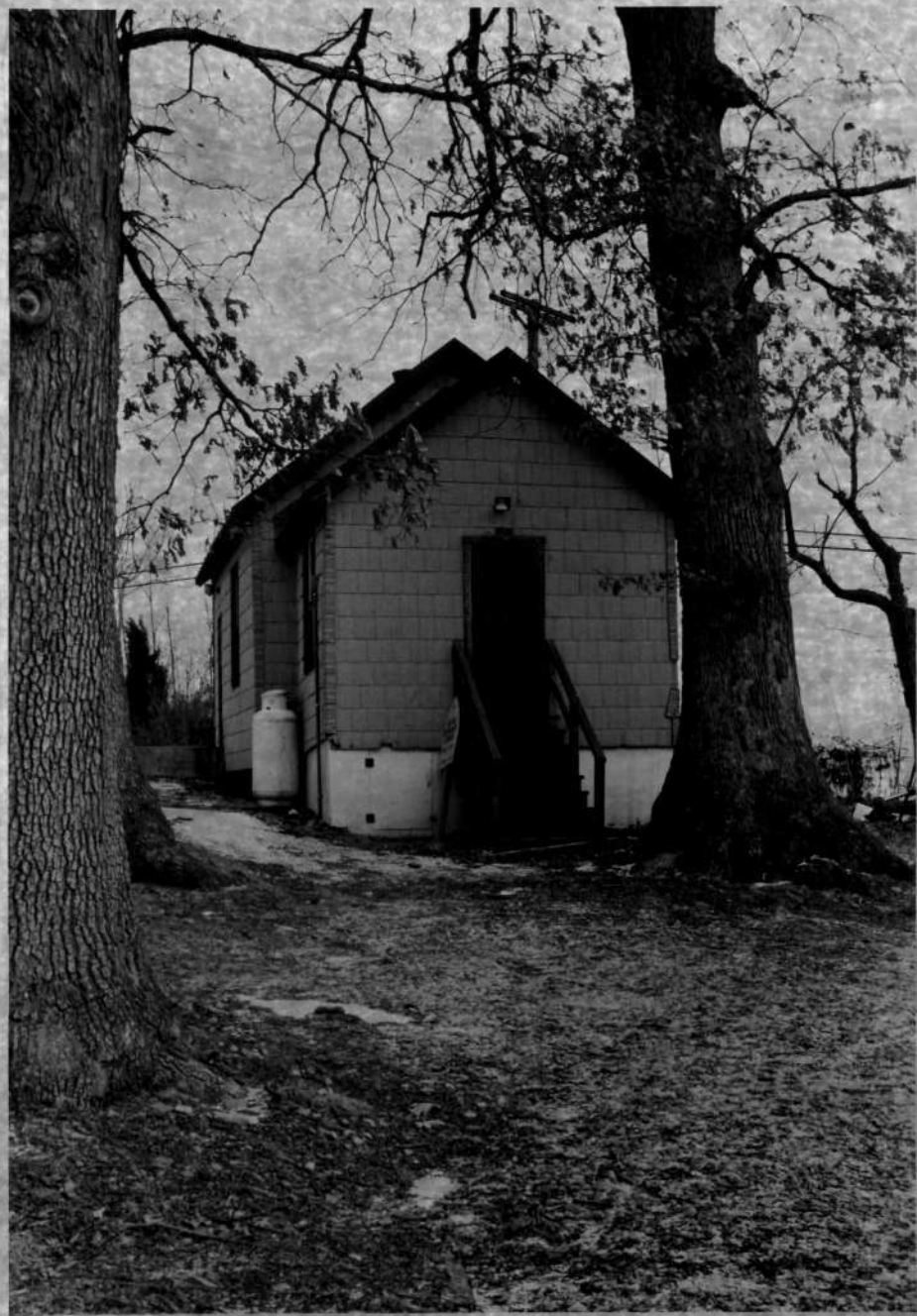
TRAILERIES

2/2003

MD SHPD

PINEY GROVE U.M. CHURCH CEMETERY, view looking NE

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BA-3687

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT  
BORING

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

2/2003

MD SHPO

PINEY GROVE SCHOOL, view looking northeast

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BA-3087

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BORING

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

2/2003

MD SHPD

5026 FRYE ROAD and 5018 FRYE ROAD, View looking NE

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BA-3087

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BORING

BALTIMORE County, MD

TRAILERIES

2/2003

MD SHPO

5010 FRYE ROAD, view looking northwest

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BA-3087

PINEY GROVE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BORING

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

2/2003

MD SHPO

5006 FRYE ROAD, view looking northeast

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